ous nature of duties on international flights.

**Telephone Exchanges in Banaskantha, Gujarat**

3084. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Telephone exchanges : District Banaskantha, Gujarat, Particularly at Tharadt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up telephone exchanges in District Banaskantha, Gujarat, at places where a registered paid demand for a minimum of 1 applicants is available.

(ii) There are two stations, namely Tharad and Thara where Manual Telephone Exchanges are already working. These are planned to be replaced by automatic Electronic exchanges before December, 1994.

**Gem Deposits in Eastern Orissa**

3085. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey on the Gem deposits in Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani and koraput districts of Orissa has been carried out in those areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal for setting up a Gem Mining unit in those areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the large scale illegal trading of Gems and semi-precious stones is being carried out there; and

(e) the action taken/being taken to stop such activities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c). In Orissa UNDP assisted project titled "Development of Gemstone Resources of Orissa State" is currently under implementation. The project aims at delineation of gem-stone prospects of the State, optimum recovery through adoption of appropriate mining and processing techniques, establishment of a Modern Gem Testing Laboratory and upgradation of knowledge, skill and expertise in the related fields through training.

(d) Some illegal mining and trading of gems and semi-precious stones from these districts have been reported.

(e)The Orissa Minerals (Prevention of Theft and Other Unlawful Activities) Act, 1989 and the Rules thereunder have been enforced since May, 1990 in order to prevent clandestine activities in minerals including precious and semi-precious stones.

**Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices, Telephone Exchanges and P.C.Os.**

3086. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices/ Sub-Post Offices/Telephone Exchanges and P.C. Os. opened during the last 1991-92 in the different States and Union Territories;

(b)) the number such offices opened till dated how long it will take to complete the